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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/785,095

02/25/2004

Hiroshi Iida

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07/08/2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC

P.O. BOX 320850

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EXAMINER

DICKER, DENNIS T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/08/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/785,095

Applicant(s)

IIDA ET AL.

Examiner

DENNIS DICKER

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 16-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 16-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/003)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/15/2009 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-7 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (hereinafter "Kim '243" US 6,101,243) in view of Nakatani et al. (hereinafter "Nakatani '079" US 5,253,079) and further in view of Shizmu et al (US 6,609,162).

With respect to **Claim 1**, Kim '243 teaches a service processing system providing a service of performing a predetermined series of processes on document data through cooperation among the processes over a network (i.e., **Col. 1 lines 19-22, facsimile system**) comprising: a control device (i.e., **Fig. 1**); a storage device (i.e., **20 of Fig. 1**,

Memory), provided in a control device, that stores a work flow of the predetermined series of processes (i.e., **Col. 3 lines 47-49, memory stores program data of system [workflow Table 1]**); an acquisition device (i.e., **50 of Fig. 1, Modem**) that acquires document data on a page basis (i.e., **Col. 3 lines 56-60**); and a controller (i.e., **10 of Fig. 1, CPU**) provided in the control device that determines (i.e., **Col. 3 lines 44-47, CPU determines which phase the error occurs**) whether an acquisition error indicating failure in acquiring the document data occurs (i.e., **Col. 5 lines 35-40**) and whether a decode error indicating failure in decoding the acquired document data occurs (i.e., **Col. 5 lines 40-46**), and executes a recovery process (i.e., **Fig. 2, recovery process**) to eliminate the acquisition error when the acquisition error occurs (i.e., **Col. 4 lines 39-61, method of eliminating acquisition error**) and the decode error when the decode error occurs wherein, in the recovery process (i.e., **Col. 4 lines 62-Col. 5 line 5, recovery process for error after transmission**), the controller requests to resend a page of the document data in which the acquisition error occurs (i.e., **Fig. 2**) .

Kim '243 does not explicitly teach a decoding device that decodes the acquired document data on a page basis and controls reexecution of a decoding process of a page of the document data in which the decode error occurs, wherein the predetermined series of processes originate from a plurality of multi-function devices and include at least a document capturing process, a document processing process, and a document distribution process wherein each of the multi-function devices provide at least one of an input plug-in function, a processing plug-in function and an output

plug-in function, and wherein the control device automates and routinizes the predetermined series of processes.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Nakatani '079. In particular, Nakatani '079 teaches the use of a decoding device (i.e., **36 of Fig. 1, Expansion device**) that decodes the acquired document data on a page basis (i.e., **Col. 10 lines 16-18 and Col. 7 lines 42-45**) and controls reexecution of a decoding process (i.e., **Col. 10 lines 25-28, re-decoding process when an error occurs[Col. 10 lines 19-21]**) of a page of the document data in which the decode error occurs (i.e., **Col. 4 lines 31-43**) and Shizmu teaches wherein the predetermined series of processes originate from a plurality of multi-function devices (i.e., **Col. 1 lines 66-Col.2 lines 32**) and include at least a document capturing process, a document processing process, and a document distribution process (i.e., **Col. 1 lines 15-22 and Col. 14 lines 19-22[Fax mode]**) wherein each of the multi-function devices provide at least one of an input plug-in function (i.e., **Col. 2 lines 16-32**), a processing plug-in function and an output plug-in function, and wherein the control device automates and routinizes the predetermined series of processes (i.e., **Col. 4 lines 36-49, control server automates predetermined series of processes**).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the service processing system of Kim '243 as taught by Nakatani '079 and Shizmu since Nakatani '079 suggested in Col. 1 lines 1-20-68 that such a modification would provide improved reliability in a facsimile system when receiving a fax wherein the facsimile device in Kim'243 acquires a page and

processes a page while determining an error and using a recovery process to clear the error and Nakatani '079 shows an improvement to the recovery process by re-decoding a page when an error is found rather than re-dialing a number which will save time and money and Shizmu explains that such a modification would increase flexibility and efficiency when combining and controlling functions of different devices.

With respect to **Claim 2**, Kim '243 teaches a service processing system wherein the controller temporarily halts the predetermined processes when the acquisition error or the decode error occurs (**i.e., Col.4 lines 3-8, if there is an error the controller automatically halts the process**), requests executes the recovery process, and clears the halt after the execution of the recovery process (**Col.4 lines 3-8 and Fig. 2, request to redial the number to clear the halt**).

With respect to **Claim 3**, Kim '243 teaches a service processing system wherein the controller continues execution of the performing of the predetermined processes on document data except for the process of the page of the document data in which the acquisition error or the decode error occurs (**i.e., ,113 of fig. 2 and Col. 4 lines 62-Col. 5 line 20, ability to continue execution of a predetermined process except for error page**), and performs the execution of the recovery process separately from the continued processes of the predetermined processes (**i.e.,113 of Fig. 2 , recovery process separately from error page**).

With regards to the image processing device of **Claim 4**, the limitations of the claim 4 are corrected by limitations of claim 1 above. The steps of claim 4 read into the function step of claim 1.

With regards to the image processing device of **Claim 5**, the limitations of the claim 5 are corrected by limitations of claim 2 above. The steps of claim 5 read into the function step of claim 2.

With regards to the image processing device of **Claim 6**, the limitations of the claim 6 are corrected by limitations of claim 3 above. The steps of claim 6 read into the function step of claim 3.

With regards to the image processing device of **Claim 7**, the limitations of the claim 7 are corrected by limitations of claim 1 above. The steps of claim 7 read into the function step of claim 1.

With regards to the image processing method of **Claim 16**, the limitations of the claim 16 are corrected by limitations of claim 1 above. The steps of claim 16 read into the function step of claim 1.

With regards to the image processing method of **Claim 17**, the limitations of the claim 17 are corrected by limitations of claim 2 above. The steps of claim 17 read into the function step of claim 2.

With regards to the image processing method of **Claim 18**, the limitations of the claim 18 are corrected by limitations of claim 3 above. The steps of claim 18 read into the function step of claim 3.

With regards to the image processing method of **Claim 19**, the limitations of the claim 19 are corrected by limitations of claim 1 above. The steps of claim 19 read into the function step of claim 1.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DENNIS DICKER whose telephone number is (571)270-3140. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571) 272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 2625
7/7/2009

Art Unit: 2625

/Twyler L. Haskins/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625